

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 041708Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7303

INFO USNATO IMMEDIATE 2007

S E C R E T ATHENS 964

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR NATO

SUBJ: GREECE'S SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND NATO:

PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. ATHENS 875

B. STATE 22619

C. USNATO 551

1. AS TZOUNIS HAD INDICATED TO DCM (REF A), FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS GOT IN TOUCH WITH ME TO SAY THAT THE GOG WOULD AVOID IN ITS ANNOUNCEMENT LATER THIS WEEK SPECIFYING ANY DATE FOR THE OPENING OF TALKS IN BRUSSELS. AS OF NOW, HE PLANS TO MAKE A LOW KEY ANNOUNCEMENT ON THURSDAY OR FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: "THE GOVERNMENTS OF GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE AGREED TO START TALKS ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 10TH IN ATHENS ON BILATERAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS". IF ASKED, BITSIOS INTENDS TO SAY THAT HE ANTICIPATES DISCUSSING THE VARIOUS RELATED MATTERS, SUCH AS U.S. BASES AND MILITARY FACILITIES IN GREECE. HE DOES NOT PLAN AT THIS TIME TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT BEGINNING THE TALKS OR NEGOTIATIONS IN BRUSSELS, AND HE INDICATED HIS FULL CONCURRENCE WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT BY AMBASSADOR BRUCE AND THEODOROPOULOS (REF C).

2. BITSIOS ALSO SAID THERE WAS A BARE POSSIBILITY THAT PRIME

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MINISTER CARAMANLIS MIGHT MAKE SOME PASSING REFERENCE

TO THE OPENING OF THE TALKS FEBRUARY 10TH WHEN HE APPEARS
FOR A FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE IN THE PARLIAMENT TOMORROW
FEBRUARY 5TH.
KUBISCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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